the existing ratio of 10.5 or 13 per 10 lakh people to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented within a period of five years.

(c) and (d) The Supreme Court's judgment of 21st March, 2002, *inter-alia*, contains time limits for the compliance of the directions by the Central Government for the Union Territories and the respective State Governments/ High Courts for the States. The Apex Court has further directed that the States as well as the Union of India shall submit their compliance report by 30th September, 2002. The Government has since forwarded the judgment of the Supreme Court to State Government/U.T. Administrations for necessary action.

On the other hand, the Government is already seized of this matter and has endeavoured constantly to bring about improvements in the functioning of courts with a view to simplifying procedures and delivering cost effective and speedy justice. The Government has also been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides increasing the Judge strength from time to time, the Government has also set up/encouraged alternative modes of disposal including conciliation, mediation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts, etc. have been set up to expedite disposal of cases. Information technology is being used in courts, and for generation of cause lists, providing information to the litigants/ Advocates etc. for speedy disposal of cases. Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has requested all the State Governments and High Courts *vide* letters dated 4.4.2001 and 26.4.2002 to fill up the vacant posts of District Judges and other Judges/Magistrates of the subordinate Judiciary.

Delimitation Commission

4895. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been finalized to appoint a Delimitation Commission for determining the electoral constituencies in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to undertake readjustment of electoral constituencies pertaining to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of States including those reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled

Tribes, based on the census for the year 1991, without affecting the total number of seats allocated to the States in these legislative bodies, the Government has already introduced a Bill, namely, the Delimitation Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 3.5.2002, which was passed by the House on 7.5.2002.

Amendment of Article 46 of the Constitution

4896. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Article 46 of the Constitution directs the States to promote the educational and economic interests of the SCs, STs and other weaker sections of Society and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation;

(b) whether this directive principle has failed to attain the objectives all through these five decades; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider amendment of the Constitution to convert this provision into a fundamental right?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Complaints regarding non-holding of annual general meetings by companies

4897. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received from Shareholders against companies for not holding annual general meetings during the year 2000-2001 and not sending annual reports etc.; and

(b) the action taken by Government against the defaulting companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.